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GENERAL MICHAEL JACKSON AND THE GREEN UMBRELLA



NEWTON

LIFE AND TIMES

1700 TO 1800

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THE LIFE AND TIMES OF NEWTON
1700 - 1800

Compiled by Dorothy S. Bates

Publication #10 of
The Jackson Homestead
Newton, Massachusetts

Under the auspices of the Historical
Committee of the Friends of the Jackson
Homestead

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PREFACE

Prompted by Newton's observance of the national Bicentennial, this booklet has been compiled to portray the life and spirit of the city in the 1700's. The material: "Three Hundred Years American," by Alice F. and Bettina Jackson; "History of Newton," by Fancis Jackson; "Tercentenary History of Newton," by Henry K. Rowe; and "History of Newton," by Samuel Francis Smith; also manuscripts by Arthur Tourtellot and Mrs. Anne Cobb.

For most helpful assistance in the preparation of this material sincere thanks are extended to Mr. Alan B. Larkin, Miss Beatrice Holland, Mr. James W. Peghiney, Mrs. Charles F. Weden and especially to Mrs. William H. Cannard, Director-Curator of the Jackson Homestead.

Credit for the sketch of Michael Jackson with the green umbrella goes to Mrs. Orin E. Skinner.



THE LIFE AND TIMES OF NEWTON

From 1700 - 1800

To understand the Newton of two centuries before our own, let us delve into some of the city's histories and manuscripts of the Revolutionary War period and before. It becomes evident that in the first half of the 1700's it took all a man's effort to keep body and soul together. But by the middle of the century the rebellious and independent spirit of the times had spread to Newton, so that active participation in the war was inevitable.

Random excerpts from early historians add up to a picture of a simple way of life for hard-working farmers who were both conscientious and patriotic. They looked beyond the difficulties of daily existence to see the needs of a young and growing country; so that when defiance developed into war, they were ready.

GROWING SLOWLY

In the "Tercentenary History of Newton," by Henry K. Rowe, appears this account: "The history of Newton before the Revolution is a story of peaceful development unmarred by Indian massacre, pestilence or disaster of any kind. The town grew steadily in population..... A few persons moved away to keep pace with the advancing frontier, and a few others preferred the business opportunities of Boston, but more families were continually coming into town, buying portions of the larger farms, and carving out smaller ones for themselves..... More than fifty new houses were built in the half century following the year 1700.

"Population increased even more rapidly by the excess of births over deaths in the resident families. Large families of children were the rule, and there were instances of some whose contributions to the growth of the town were excessive. Goody Davis of Oak Hill, who cultivated her own land when she was more than a hundred years old and claimed to be one hundred and sixteen when she died, left forty-five grandchildren, two hundred great grandchildren and eight hundred of the fourth generation. It was customary to divide an estate among the children, with a premium for the oldest son and provision for the widow. It often happened that a man owned real estate in different parts of the town, and in that case he might have a farm to leave to each of his children."

"Such division of property resulted in smaller farms and necessitated more intensive cultivation in many cases. More woodland was cleared and laid down to grass or cultivated for grain and vegetables. Yet a generous woodlot was needed to feed the wide-mouthed chimneys which were so essential in the New

England climate. Every farm offered for sale included a certain number of acres of woodland, or it was scarcely salable. As property increased in value, more comforts were available and the monotony of life was less depressing." But the struggle for existence made everyone conscious of his property rights and watchful over all expenditures.



A colonial
mail carrier

As late as 1800, with a population of 1,491, the number of houses in Newton was 175 with an average value of \$428. Only three houses were valued above \$1,000. At that time, there were only twelve dwelling-houses within a radius of half a mile of the Bank (in Newton Corner); only eleven within a mile of the town hall in West Newton; and at the Lower Falls, eight.

The Rev. John Cotton, who died in 1757, stated that "he knew no town so healthful, and so rarely visited with fatal diseases. It has been a rare thing to follow a young man to the grave, among us."

THE MEETINGHOUSE

The only place where the people met regularly together was at the meetinghouse. Newton churches followed the ancient custom of seating and reseating the worshippers. "The first settlers meant that all should be equal before the law, and before the altar also. It was democratic in theory, but aristocratic in practice, as the rich men always got the best seats.... All men and women, of twenty-one years of age upward, had seats assigned them by committees of influential persons, chosen by the Parish for that purpose. Our ancient Meeting-houses had long seats; occasionally special permission was given to noted persons, to build a pew at their own cost. Males were seated separately from females."

Assignment of seats was based on: first, rank, or dignity, meaning the Ministers and Magistrates or all in authority; second, those who paid the largest Parish tax, or the rich men; third, the most aged; and fourth, "they were not to degrade any" (impossible because some must occupy the lowest seats). Married women took the same rank as their husbands.

Because the boys, in the exuberance of their spirits, would sometimes be disorderly, it was convenient to have them seated by themselves so that the "tything man" could keep them in check, rapping their heads with the little ball on one end of his long rod. Similarly if grown-ups fell asleep he could tickle their noses with the feather on the other end. With sermons running a minimum of



an hour in length, these watchdogs may well have been kept busy.

Near the meetinghouses were the noon houses and stocks. "The noon house was a plain building about thirty feet square, built at public expense or by a group of persons to accommodate churchgoers between the morning and the afternoon services. In the cold meetinghouses the people became badly chilled, but in the noon house they could bask in the warmth of the great fireplace with bread, cheese and cider, chat with their friends, and fill the footstoves with live coals before returning to the sanctuary. Several noon houses were located within easy reach of the meetinghouse in Newton Centre.....The stocks, which a state law required, were located about

ten rods from the church. They were awesome instruments of punishment, made of oak and iron and about eight feet in length, with holes through which the delinquent thrust his legs and thought



The Stocks

of his misdeeds, while the boys jeered at him and more sober citizens looked at him askance. There is record of church stocks in Newton as late as 1773."

SCHOOLING

As to early education, it was in the year of 1647 that the General Court had adopted a rule that every town of fifty households should provide a free school where boys should learn to read and write and understand the laws, but schools were not open to girls until 1789.

In the town records of March 7, 1698, we read, "The town voted to build a school house as soon as they can!" and in 1754 it was "Voted, to have three schools in the town." By 1766 there were five school districts, and in 1796, "Voted, that five stoves be provided to warm the school-houses." (Were they unheated until that time?)

Mr. Rowe continues the story with a reference to the "first schoolhouse sixteen by fourteen feet in size. Already John Staples, who had a farm on the Sherborn Road (Beacon Street), had been employed for a winter term to teach for one shilling per day. Opinion was divided about the location of the schoolhouse, but Abraham Jackson gave an acre of land adjoining the cemetery, and there the building was erected. Very soon the town



voted to build another schoolhouse at Oak Hill, for which Jonathan Hyde gave half an acre of land. It was voted that the master should teach here one-

third of his time. As yet most of the settlers lived within reach of one of the schools, and the citizens were free to choose for their boys the school which they preferred. They had to pay for the schooling, threepence for those who were learning to read, and fourpence for those studying writing and arithmetic. These studies formed the backbone of the curriculum, for they seemed primary in all attainment of learning and practical for community needs. The town appropriated twenty-five pounds for two buildings, and decided to raise by subscription whatever else was necessary."

"For eight years before the Revolution the town tried the experiment of employing women teachers during the summer term, but it was thought best to return to the custom of hiring men. At the end of a hundred years from the organization of the town the largest sum appropriated for schools was one hundred pounds a year."

Boys were boys in those days too; for example: "A public schoolhouse, last used in 1809, formerly stood near the Harbach House, corner of Ward Street and Waverley Avenue. In this schoolhouse Master Hovey was one day sitting at his table, when a roguish boy climbed upon the roof, and let a fishingline, with a hook, down the chimney. An equally roguish schoolmate within contrived to fix the hook secretly in the master's wig, which disappeared instantaneously up the chimney."



THE UNFORTUNATES

Every community has its needy and unfortunates and Newton of the eighteenth century was no exception. At first when a man needed financial assistance, perhaps to build a home, or when he was stricken by some misfortune, such as the loss



The sign says: - The Eben Dyers have a new baby. Eben is out of work. Warm clothes for the children needed.

of his cattle, the neighbors were ready with gifts or loans. Later on at the annual Thanksgiving Day service at the meetinghouse a collection was taken for the poor and administered by the selectmen. There was simple friendly concern and no red tape. In 1731 it was voted to build a workhouse.

SLAVERY IN NEWTON

In 1755 thirteen slaves were listed as being owned in Newton and a total of thirty-six during that century. "The last remnant of slavery was Tillo (Othello), a life-long incumbrance of the estate of General William Hull. Tillo died in Newton, and is buried beside his former master in the Cemetery on Centre Street. This slave, as he was known in his old age, seemed to live a very independent life, laboring only so much as was agreeable to him.....and during Divine service used to occupy a seat in one of the negro pews that adorned the southeast and northeast corners of the audience-room in the old church (the church of 1805 in Newton Centre) above the choir." Before 1800 slavery was outlawed in the State of Massachusetts, but many (like Tillo) apparently did not claim their freedom.

NATIONALLY PROMINENT NAMES APPEAR

"Near the bridge (Bemis) on the Newton side of the river stands a large old house (now gone) on the east side of the road, called, in the time of the Revolution, the Coolidge Tavern. From 1764 to 1770 it was kept as a public house by Nathaniel Coolidge, and afterwards by 'the Widow Coolidge.' This house was appointed in 1775, as the rendezvous for the 'Committee of Safety' in case of an alarm. President Washington lodged in this house in 1789. An old house opposite, occupied by John Cook during the Revolution, is of historic interest. It was in a chamber of this house that Paul Revere engraved plates and with the help of Mr. Cook struck off the colony notes, issued by order of the Continental Congress. Adjoining this estate were the famous weir-lands along the river."

INDUSTRIAL BEGINNINGS

It was in the eighteenth century that manufacturing began to develop in Newton. The Charles River provided the power, and small but busy industrial centers were to be found in Newton Upper Falls, Newton Lower Falls and on the edge of Watertown in Newton Corner. "A few men saw an opportunity to profit



John Clark of
Brookline
bought land
where the
river fell
23 feet at
the Upper
Falls and

built a dam and sawmill. About 1708 Clark's sons joined in a partnership with Nathaniel Longley and Noah Parker who added a grist mill and fulling mill where cloth spun and woven on the farms was bleached by hammering in fuller's earth and water.

from trade or manufacturing. As long as every farmer had his own forge or could use a neighbor's, a blacksmith shop was not necessary, but with the increase of population and the growth of trade and travel, smithies sprang up, where, as at the grist-mills, farmers liked to stop and swap stories if nothing more substantial. Occasionally an oxcart creaking by on the way to market at Boston needed tinkering, and the blacksmith picked up many a shilling to eke out his farming. Not yet was there

sufficient demand for a general store in every village. There was little to exchange, and the people satisfied their few needs at Watertown, Cambridge or Boston. Clothing of domestic manufacture was in demand. Daniel Bacon found employment as a tailor at Newton Corner, and Joseph Davenport of Milton opened a clothing shop at Lower Falls where he employed several men."

THE PEOPLE

In the first half of the century which we are considering, life in the low red farmhouses amid the cornfields was reasonably tranquil. Hard work was



The women made their candles by dipping or in molds.

the order of the day, but from our vantage-point existence would seem uneventful to the point of dullness. But how about this? Old Captain Prentice

was a man who knew no fear. "One day a huge bear made a foray into his domain, during haying time, and fiercely attacked one of the farm-hands. The trembling yokel kept his assailant at bay with a pitchfork, until Prentice ran up with an axe, and despatched the shaggy intruder."

Phrases such as "sober and judicious selectmen," "godly pastors," "thrifty representatives" tell us something of the qualities which were being developed in the people of Newton.

We wonder if Judge Abraham Fuller's characteristics were typical of the period. Consider this account from family records: "Judge Fuller was a man of solid convictions. He had no use for people who incurred debts, and he lived without owing any man a penny over night. Ludy Harris used to repair the Judge's shoes and would willingly have extended the magistrate credit. But when some member of the family went to get the judicial boots while the Judge was ill on his deathbed, Judge Fuller raised a fearful clamor, and shouted until the house shook. When he calmed down, he dispatched his wife to the cobbler's, with the exact sum due. He died a little while after, his stentorian voice stilled forever. But when the physician unfolded the Judge's hand to place it in a properly imposing position on his great belly, the physician's fee tumbled out into his own palm."

Deacon Elhanan Winchester was a noted preacher who gained his livelihood by the double occupation of farming and shoemaking since he received no compensation for preaching. He managed to "amass some property" and exhibited "true patriotism."



One home, that of General William Hull, is described as follows: "We think of Thanksgiving feasts, of wedding festivities, of home comings, and home leavings; of days of joy and days of sorrow. We can imagine the family room, with its huge fireplace, filled with burning logs (for there was no stint of firewood in those days). We can even see in our imagination, the family circle gathered around it of a winter evening; the wooden settle with its high back to protect from cold drafts, with the children upon it;the elders with work and book, gathered near the table, to have the benefit of the one or two candles placed upon it. The stranger or neighbor, who perchance, had come for the night; what did they talk about? What stories, legends or traditions did they rehearse? They were earnest men and women in those

days, and what was said and what was thought had a depth of meaning and purpose, that we of these later days can neither comprehend nor understand."

THE SPIRIT OF REBELLION TAKES FORM

Of the period leading up to the Revolution Samuel Francis Smith has this to say: "Newton had not yet become, to any great extent, a manufacturing town, though something had been done, both at the Upper and Lower Falls, to meet the demands of home consumption, for more than half a century. But the people understood the principles that underlie a free government, and were resolved not to yield their rights to a foreign oppressor."

"We cannot admire too much the energy and spirit manifested by the fathers of the town....the calm, stern determination, the fixed resolve, the sober consideration, the sense of justice, the appreciation of their rights and privileges,' and their concern that these should be transmitted, unabridged, to their posterity. They were worthy of the stock from which they came, and worthy to be the fathers of such a republic as they delivered to their successors. The following years of trial, toil and hardship, the patient endurance of hunger, cold and poverty, the wasting of their wealth and the sacrifice of their lives were a part of the solemn work they had undertaken; a portion of the grand enterprise to which they had consecrated themselves. We are not surprised that men so enlightened..... should have fought out to its issue the battle of freedom. They were equal to the dignity of such an occasion, and worthy to be entrusted with a government which they gradually perfected, and delivered unimpaired to their children."

The actions of the people reflected the goals and feelings of the times. These earnest citizens appear to have been dedicated representatives of that spirit of independence which was gradually pervading the colonies.

"While the colonists sought on the one hand to discourage luxury and extravagance, and to develop home industry, on the other hand they prepared cautiously for the sharp struggle that was before them."

NEWTON AND THE BOSTON TEA PARTY

Local histories and manuscripts reveal clearly the active part which Newton played in the Revolution. As resentment against English policies in the colonies began to build, irate Newton citizens took their places with those of Boston and other nearby towns in a stand against what they considered were unjust taxes, particularly on tea. "A plot was quickly laid, and on a certain day at a given hour, the conspirators converged at the Boston wharf. From near and far, men hurried to the dock, many disguised as Mohawk Indians. At Newton Lieutenant Michael Jackson II, with several of his kin and many townsmen, similarly garbed, hastily mounted their horses, galloped into Boston and to the harbor, where they joined the crowd, raided the ships, and dumped nearly ten thousand pounds' worth of tea into the water."





APRIL 19, 1775

"Before dawn on April 19, 1775, Corporal Timothy Jackson, second cousin to Michael, was on his way to Watertown a-horseback, carrying fresh produce from his garden in well-filled panniers, which would be laden with fish on the return trip. On the way he met a man hurrying down the road, who excitedly shouted to him, 'The British are on their way to Lexington!' Hearing the signal guns, Timothy wheeled his horse with a quick jerk of the reins, galloped swiftly back to Newton, dismounted at the meetinghouse (in Newton Centre), climbed the tower, grasped the rope, and violently rang the great bell to give the alarm to all the villagers.

"At this first signal that the British troops were marching to Lexington the Newton Minute Men gathered rapidly at the parade ground (on Centre Street

in Newton Centre), and by sunrise the whole company except the captain had arrived. Time was short. The orderly sergeant, impatient over the nonarrival of the leader, who was ill, made a motion that a captain for the day be chosen at once. Michael Jackson, though a private in the company, had been a lieutenant, and was nominated by uplifted hands. Stepping directly from the ranks to the head of the company without even pausing to acknowledge the honor, he gave the order 'Shoulder arms-- platoons to the right wheel--quick time--forward march!'

"At once they were on their way to the nearby Watertown meetinghouse, where the commissioned officers of the regiment were sitting in council, and Michael was asked to join in their deliberations. After listening impatiently to the discussion for a few minutes, he took the floor and in a moving speech addressed the officers, accusing them of wasting time because they feared to meet the enemy and ending with 'Gentlemen, there is a time for all things, but now the time for talking has passed, and the time for fighting has come. If you intend to oppose the British troops, take up the march for Lexington and Concord immediately. My company will take the shortest route to get a shot at the British. Not now the wag of the tongue, but the pull of the trigger!' Without another word Captain Jackson left with his company. This rebuke broke up the council. Some followed him, some dispersed, others remained." The critical clash came on that day.

COLONEL JOSEPH WARD

Col. Joseph Ward, then master of a grammar school which he had started in Boston, learned of the events of the fateful day. He hurried home, obtained horse and gun and rode to Concord--the beginning of a distinguished wartime career. In his later years, Col. Ward was reduced from opulence to poverty through unfortunate business transactions, but remained, according to his obituary notice, "superior to human vicissitudes, which is the acme of human virtue."

MICHAEL JACKSON AT BUNKER HILL



Michael Jackson

"Events moved swiftly. On June 15th Washington was made Commander-in-Chief of the new Continental Army, and two days later the Battle of Bunker Hill was fought. Michael Jackson, now forty-one years of age and a major, was in the thick of the desperate struggle; when the valiant American forces, short of ammunition,

had to retreat, he rallied some twenty-five men and took a stand near the edge of the hill, thus temporarily checking the advance of the British,

who suspected an ambush by a much larger force. He afterward told his son Eben that in this battle, in which a British bullet just grazed his ribs, 'My piece was loaded with a ball and three buckshot, and I had forty-two very good shots at the enemy, many of which I deliberately fired as near as twelve to thirty yards distance.

"In recognition of his action at Bunker Hill Michael was promoted to Lieutenant colonel in one of the Massachusetts regiments." In a later engagement he was badly wounded in the right knee and was incapacitated for some months.

INDEPENDENCE DEBATED

On May 10, 1776, the General Court resolved that a meeting be held in each town to determine the position of the inhabitants as to the issue of independence. "The meeting in Newton occurred on the 17th of June, the first anniversary of the day rendered memorable by the Battle of Bunker Hill, and in which Newton had been honored by the prowess of her citizens. Fitting celebration of such an event! It was the busiest season of the year. The men could ill spare the time from their labors in the field. But the exigency was great. They felt that important interests were at stake. The rights of freemen, for centuries to come, were of more consequence, in their estimation, than the bread of the next harvest. They knew that posterity would hold them accountable for their action in such an emergency. Grave questions were to be debated, and every patriot was bound to be at his post. The

17th of June, 1776, was, to the citizens of Newton, a day pregnant with the fate of coming centuries. In its balances hung quivering the destinies of posterity, perhaps to the latest generation. Shall the Americans be freemen? Or, shall they yield, weakly, to British aggression? This was the question."

NEWTON IN ACTION



Newton men formed a part of every army and expedition, fought in almost every battle and skirmish throughout the contest. Scarce a man in the town, old or young, able or unable, but volunteered, enlisted or was drafted, and served in the ranks of the army from the hardest-fought battles, down to the more quiet duty of guarding Burgoyne's surrendered army, partly by aged men."

ANGEL OF THE ARMY

"In December, 1777, Washington had gone into winter quarters at Valley Forge. The Eighth Massachusetts Regiment, commanded by Colonel Michael Jackson, was stationed there from January until the end of May.

"It was a terrible winter. Wretched accommodations, months of bitter cold, constantly threatening famine, insufficient or tattered clothing--often no shoes--undermined morale.....

"It was a memorable time for Colonel Michael and his family, for not only were his five sons in service at Valley Forge, but his wife Ruth as well, who devoted herself to nursing the sick and wounded. This is an unbroken one-family record. Washington called Ruth Jackson 'the angel of the army.' He one day expressed the desire that he and Mrs. Washington take tea with Colonel and Mrs. Jackson at their headquarters. Though greatly pleased, Ruth was much embarrassed because she had no tea. On learning this, Martha Washington kindly sent her at once a note and a well-filled tea caddy, and they all had tea together. The caddy was long treasured by the family, but unfortunately it was borrowed in later years by someone who never returned it, and was lost sight of.

"A letter written in January, 1841, to her grandson Ebenezer Jackson pays high tribute to Ruth Jackson: 'Your grandmother, Col. Michael Jackson's wife, was an excellent woman. Hours have I listened to her accounts of events that occurred while she was with her husband at the headquarters of General Washington (at Valley Forge). Sometimes,

she said, when she talked of leaving for her home, where she was much wanted, General Washington would say, 'Do not leave us, Mrs. Jackson, I would sooner spare any General Officer of the Army.' The soldiers she said called her 'Mother' and were so grateful for her attentions to them when sick or wounded, that it repaid her for all that she did."

THE GREEN UMBRELLA

Of Michael Jackson we read: "Always fastidious about his appearance, he ordered a large green silk umbrella to protect his uniform. Its size and novelty attracted much attention, for umbrellas were just appearing in the colonies. Since army etiquette forbade officers to carry objects other than accouterments, Col. Michael had his orderly hold it over him to shelter him from sun and rain.

The still extant umbrella is enormous, fifteen feet in circumference. The strong frame is covered with fine, strong green silk, the sections of which are firmly and finely hand-stitched. The staff is of light-colored fruitwood and is tipped



with a brass ring to hang it by." (This very umbrella is now owned by the Jackson Homestead.)

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

"About four hundred and thirty men from the little town of Newton served in the Continental Army during the Revolution, having enlisted for a few months, for three years, or for the duration of hostilities....The hastily and loosely organized government, having only an empty treasury, was unable to pay the soldiers and had to borrow money wherever it could. In 1777 a call for loans was issued, to which the people of Newton (twenty-nine of them) responded generously according to their means."

WOMEN OF THE DAY



Women surely had their place in the effort; they must cultivate the farms or starve. They raised vegetables, cared for the horses and pigs, milked the cows and sheared the sheep. From the wool they spun the yarn and wove the cloth for the family garments.



The wife of Major William Hull (he became Lieut.-Col. in 1779) went with him to the army and was his constant companion through many campaigns. Even when the days were darkest she was always cheerful and courageous. This superior lady was considered the perfect hostess, opening her home to travellers and strangers and military officers.

CHILDREN TOO

Newton youth also took an active part in the Revolution; for example, one of Gen. Michael Jackson's sons was in camp in Cambridge before he was fifteen and another enlisted at thirteen years of age. Two others were drummer boys at the age of ten. Another Newton drummer boy who made history was Zibeon Hooker from Newton Lower Falls whose drum was perforated by a British bullet in the action at Bunker Hill; whereupon he seized the gun of a fallen companion and fought to the end of the battle.

THE ALARM LIST

The elderly deserve their recognition in this period. One of these, the Hon. Abraham Fuller--representative, senator, councillor, judge--served as a volunteer with a group called the Alarm List. These were men who had passed the age for military duty, some being in their seventies. Upon Judge Fuller's gravestone we read:

"To live a Christian his unvary'd aim
The star of glory beams upon his name."

Mr. Noah Wiswall, the oldest man to serve from Newton, was seventy-six when he enlisted. The old veteran could not be induced to remain at home because, as he said, he wanted to "see what the boys were doing"; and when he was shot through the hand

by a bullet, he coolly bound it up with his handkerchief and brought home the gun of a British soldier who fell in the battle.

TIMOTHY JACKSON, PRISONER OF WAR

Major Timothy Jackson had a most colorful career during the Revolution. "In 1776 he was serving on a privateer which was captured by the British frigate 'Perseus,' and he spent six months in 'one of these floating hells called prison ships'; he was then impressed into a British convoy guarding a fleet of transports which took eighty days to reach England. After three transfers he was put aboard Lord Howe's flagship sailing to the West Indies, and on the way home was transferred to the frigate 'Grasshopper.' Life was a terrible ordeal on all these ships, and he was determined to escape.

One stormy night, while the ship was at anchor in the harbor of Antigua, the sentinel went below to escape the rain. Unobserved, Timothy let himself down by the bow chains, swam to shore, made his way to St. John's, and under an assumed name boarded an English sloop bound for New York. When he discovered that the captain had changed his course he left the ship at one of the ports en route, boarded a pilot boat to North Carolina, and there made a vessel bound for Boston. But luck was still against him, for on this trip he was recaptured by the British and taken to New York, which they were still holding. During the docking of the ship he escaped and traveled day and night toward the American lines, only to be captured once more just before he made his goal.

"Again Timothy was carried back to New York and imprisoned for six months, with hundreds of his fellow Americans, under the dreadful conditions of filth and disease which took the lives of many. In 1778, soon after the battle of Monmouth, he was fortunately exchanged and transferred to the American army; but he was still two hundred miles from home, physically unfit, and utterly destitute. Happily he met a Newton kinsman, Sergeant Daniel Jackson, who gave him funds for the journey home. Soon mustered out, at twenty-three, he returned to Newton to become a farmer."

IN SUMMARY

In summary, the eighteenth century stood for days of hard work, even monotony (or so they seem from this distance)--then the devastating and exhausting experience of the Revolutionary years which left the people financially poor and with little energy for community development and expansion. There had to be a recovery period.

So it would take a new century and the coming of the railroad and the commuter before Newton would embark upon the rapid growth and the civic consciousness which later characterized the city.

Samuel Francis Smith had this to say: "How much do we owe to the persistent ardor of our fathers! How great is our obligation to live worthily of them, and to preserve for our children that which was so dearly purchased for ourselves."

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